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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President protempore [Mr. Thurmond].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Bill Hall of Geronimo, OK. We are very pleased to have Reverend Hall with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Bill Hall, offered the following prayer:

Let us join together in prayer this morning.

Our Father, at the beginning of this session, we want to join together to offer thanks for this great Nation and for the privilege of being a citizen of the United States of America.

We do approach Thy throne of grace today and ask for divine guidance. Let us become aware of Thy divine presence in this place at this hour.

At this time we ask that You will give each of these elected servants the wisdom and the courage that they will need to perform their duties today.

We also join together to pray for peace and security for our citizens. We pray Thy blessings to be bestowed upon our homes, on our schools and, indeed, throughout our Nation today. Let us be reminded that righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to people. This morning together we make our petition and offer our thanks in the precious name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am pleased to yield to the distinguished Democratic leader this morning to recognize our guest Chaplain; it has a special meaning to him and to all of us.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

REV. BILL HALL

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me thank the distinguished majority whip, my friend from Mississippi, for giving me the opportunity to recognize a person very important to my family and to me. Rev. Bill Hall is my father-in-law, and it is an honor to have him offer the prayer that opens up the Senate this morning.

By having him here, we share with the rest of the world what my wife and I have known for a long time. He is a man of dedication, and a man of spiritual strength. For many decades he has had the good fortune to share his strength and his spirituality with parishes throughout Oklahoma and Kansas. We have watched in great awe and admiration his remarkable work with people in towns small and large, in families broken and healed, and in parishes of all sizes.

As we begin this special day, it is a unique honor for me and a very important occasion to recognize his contribution to the many, many people who have benefited from his wisdom and from his leadership as pastor of his churches. I commend his message to the Senate and to the country as we begin this day.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Mississippi is recognized

Mr. LOTT. Again, Mr. President, I join our distinguished colleague and friend from South Dakota in welcoming to our body the Reverend Billy Hall. We thank him for his beautiful prayer for our people and our country today. We know how proud he is of his son-in-law, TOM DASCHLE, and we are very proud of TOM and Linda.

We are deeply honored to have Reverend Hall here today.

We thank him very much.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2937, the White House Travel Office legislation. The Senate will stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. today to accommodate the respective party luncheons. Senators are reminded that a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the pending Dole amendment No. 3961 to H.R. 2937 will occur at 2:15 p.m. today unless a unanimous-consent agreement with respect to further consideration of H.R. 2937. the gas tax repeal, and other related issues can be reached. Therefore, other votes are possible today in relation to those items just mentioned or any other items cleared for action.

The majority leader had indicated yesterday that there is a likelihood of votes throughout the day today, Wednesday, and Thursday, with the budget resolution being taken up, I believe, probably on Wednesday morning, and we can expect votes probably at night on each of these 3 days.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for a period of time not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] is recognized to speak up to 10 minutes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

